



## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE: SUMMER EVENTS, WEBSITES & ACQUISITIONS

Well, we didn't have much of a summer but we did have the Museum Lates. This proved to be a really popular initiative which extended accessible entertainment to Horsham folk in conjunction with some rather more amplified events held on the Carfax bandstand. More of the same for next year, please...and maybe even a little more of the same for the end of this year too

Arts, culture and leisure is alive and well in the town with the District Council showing great support, whilst enthusiastic community groups such as Horsham Arts Society, Friends of Horsham Park, Horsham Society and our good selves do everything they can to ensure that their adopted areas of expertise thrive.



The Friends Committee continues to serve its members with a calendar of events throughout the year. Former Museum Curator Jeremy Knight visited us for a unique talk in July, and a Friends group managed to visit Woolbeding Gardens in early September braving torrential rain and a biblical storm. We had Sarah Nathaniel from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission visiting us on Wednesday 9th October and, coming up, our Christmas Tea Party will be hosted by entertaining lady harpist, Margaret Watson, on Wednesday 4th December. Margaret's CV is really impressive and she is easily found on YouTube, so I think we will be in safe hands. Early days yet, but our first 2025 event - the Life and Times of Agatha Christie with David Allen will be on Wednesday 26th February; not to be missed.

On the admin front, the Friends have taken some key steps forward at last. We have joined the age on internet banking, and have also mastered the process of payment by debit card - particularly useful for admission to Events. Sean Hannan and Pam French have also completed the production of our new, very smart, trifold membership application form, examples of which are in the Friends area of the Horsham Gallery just at the start of the Museum trail.

Our social media wiz, Steve Payne, has yet again worked his magic and recreated, almost in its entirety, the briefly-removed Horsham Museum Posters website, which now sits currently as a link within the Friends own website. Steve is also looking at assembling examples of Horsham cine-history which we hope to share with Friends either on line or in person next year.



I'm pleased to report that we have recently been able to acquire two items for the Museum at Curator Nikki's request; a medieval finger ring and a medieval strap end. Both are tiny, and will be on display soon. We are always happy to consider any of Nikki's recommendations to enhance the Museum's collection and we now have a good process to facilitate this.

We have also registered the Friends as a recipient for funding on the Just Giving portal so if anyone wants to donate either individually or as a group activity then we now have the means to capture those donations.

Finally, we recently lost Helen Leary from the tripartite Museum team but, in her place, we have Jess Reeves who is now in situ and can often be seen in the front desk area. We welcome Jess to the team and hope she has a long and happy stay.

Till next time.

*Paul French*

## MUSEUM NEWS

As to be expected, summer has been a busy time at the museum and we welcomed many visitors through our doors over the warmer months. Our Museum Lates programme proved incredibly successful this year, with the garden packed for all 4 events. Museum Volunteer, Rick Domas has written an article in this newsletter which features a full review of the Lates. If you have not visited the museum shop recently then I do recommend coming in to see our expanded local maker lines. Horsham illustrator and artist Pearl Cat Cat's unique handmade jewellery is available which make fantastic gifts, and we now have 4 designs of tote bags for sale created by 2 of the Collyer's students from this Spring's pop-up shop.

New starter Jessica Reeves joined the team at our busiest time but very ably stepped into the role in early August and already has many great ideas for the visitor experience at the museum. She is busily preparing for our October half-term family activities with the children's craft sessions running from Tuesday 29 October until Friday 1 November.

Autumn is a quieter time for events at the museum which gives the team the opportunity to work on the important, behind-the-scenes tasks to care for the collection. We are also preparing for a new gallery refresh with the Shelley and 18th-20th century gallery being redisplayed. One gallery will look at the industrial revolution, and the Horsham industries which developed from this, and the other space will explore parliamentary reform. Although some people may be disappointed that the Shelley gallery will be reformatted, it is crucial

for the preservation of these artefacts. As many of the items on display are archival, they need to have regular rest periods, particularly from light, to ensure that they stay in good condition. The gallery on parliamentary reform will still include information on Shelley, and his father's controversial (and temporary) election to MP in 1790, so the redisplay will give an opportunity for more stories about the Shelley family to be told.

We recently welcomed 2 new Anglo-Saxon artefacts to the collection through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which were acquired with support from the Friends of Horsham Museum. One is part of a ring from 800 - 925AD featuring an early-Medieval design of a beast. The other is an Anglo-Saxon strap end from the same period with a silver element featuring 2 bears. We have plans for these to go on display in 2025, but due to their small size and intricate designs we need to think carefully about how we can exhibit these in a way that visitors can appreciate the craftsmanship of these artefacts.

Finally, I wanted to update everybody that preparations are well underway for our winter exhibition which will open on 18 January 2025 and feature exciting objects from our collection alongside loans from other museums. *Cretaceous Horsham: Discovering Dinosaurs* will be curated by Assistant Curator, George Graham and tell the story of Sussex's role in the discovery of the concept of dinosaurs. Further details will be released soon.

Nikki Caxton



Silver Anglo-Saxon strap end



Museum Lates



## COMING SOON: CHRISTMAS PARTY HOSTED BY HARPIST MARGARET WATSON



Come and join us on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 16.00 in the Lounge at the London Road Chapel and meet Harpist Margaret Watson who will be hosting an afternoon Tea Party with a Christmas theme involving music, cheer and cakes.

Vastly experienced and with a wide ranging repertoire, Margaret will guide us through a relaxed performance of melody and words

Members and Guests: admission £5

*Paul French*



## COMING SOON: DAVID ALLEN PRESENTS THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AGATHA CHRISTIE



Come and join us on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 14.00 in the Lounge at the London Road Chapel and meet David Allen as he leads us through the Life and Times of Agatha Christie.

David will explore the incredible story of this

world famous crime writer, from her days roller skating on Torquay pier to her glittering career and her mysterious disappearance. With anecdotes and photographs, this is one not to be missed.

Members and Guests: admission £7.50

*Paul French*

## WOOLBEDING GARDENS VISIT

On Thursday 5th September, a small band braved the horrendous weather for our long-awaited trip to Woolbeding Gardens, near Midhurst, but we were delighted that we made the effort.

Despite the rain falling for most of our visit, we used the time to extensively explore the 26 acres from the upper Terrace Garden, through the Hornbeam Tunnel and right down the Long Walk to the River God.

The Heatherwick glasshouse may well, however, have been the most popular place to be as the sections were firmly closed to protect the sub-tropical plants inside.

As expected, the café was doing brisk business, although no-one lingered there for too long.



A big thank you to Riccardo's Travel for getting us there safely, and in some style too.

Next year we may have to think about an excursion to somewhere indoors!

*Pam French*

## EXOTIC SOUNDS FILL HORSHAM MUSEUM GARDEN

I believe half of Horsham was in the museum garden for the Friday Lates programmes held on July 19, August 16 and September 13 (I missed the kick-off of the Friday Lates held on June 7). The 2024 Friday Lates, sponsored by the Horsham District Council and Food Rocks Market, reprises the very successful 2023 programme of events at the Carfax bandstand and Horsham Museum.

The museum garden (in excellent condition due to the hard work of the gardening volunteers) was rocking on July 19 to the Brighton-based band Steel Tribe. It's not every day a bit of the Caribbean visits Horsham, but it certainly did that evening, and I guarantee you more than the flowers were swaying! There was even a group sing-along to 'Sweet Caroline', a song written and performed by American singer Neil Diamond. My wife Mary, who seemingly knows EVERY word to EVERY song ever written, was an enthusiastic participant.

One minor drawback to the evening was an initial long line at the vendor providing beer/wine/mixed drinks, but that was soon alleviated with the arrival of the vendor's wife. Wives have a way of smoothing out rough edges and calming chaos. (Trust me; I know such things.)

For a taste of the talented Steel Tribe, check-out this YouTube video: Steel Tribe Strikes Brighton: Unbelievable Live Performance ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd8_05LoHpA)).

An equally enjoyable evening (again with beautiful summer evening weather) was had on August 16, when the rocking and swaying this time was to Surrey-based Choro Bandido, a Latin bossa nova band of four excellent musicians initially brought together through friendship and a mutual love of Brazilian samba music.

The band plays choro, which Brazilians describe as quintessentially Brazilian music. According to the band's website ([www.chorobandido.co.uk](http://www.chorobandido.co.uk)), choro blends African rhythms with European melodic influences, and is often referred to as



Choro Bandido

Brazil's answer to ragtime. The band also performs related regional styles, as well as other forms of Latin-influenced music from South America and beyond. ALL forms were on display in fine form that evening.

A taste of Choro Bandido is here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd8\\_05LoHpA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd8_05LoHpA).

A chilly Friday, September 13, was warmed considerably by Swing Bee, which played a mix of jazz, country blues and, perhaps for the first time in Horsham, American hillbilly music, featuring a very credible rendition of 'I am a Man of Constant Sorrow' from the 2000 film O Brother, Where Art Thou. A sampling of the band's talents is here: [youtu.be/hWAXQ\\_eE-Os](https://youtu.be/hWAXQ_eE-Os). What the band may have lacked in vocal abilities it more than made up in instrument virtuosity, with one band member playing three instruments (ukulele, guitar and banjo) at various times in the set.

Wow! A four for four performance! Like many of you, I'm looking forward to the summer 2025 program of Friday Lates. Kudos to Nikki, her staff and the organizers of the Friday Lates program.

*Rick Domas*





## WEBSITE UPDATE

After many hours of cutting, pasting and then editing, we now have all five volumes of Horsham History on our website!

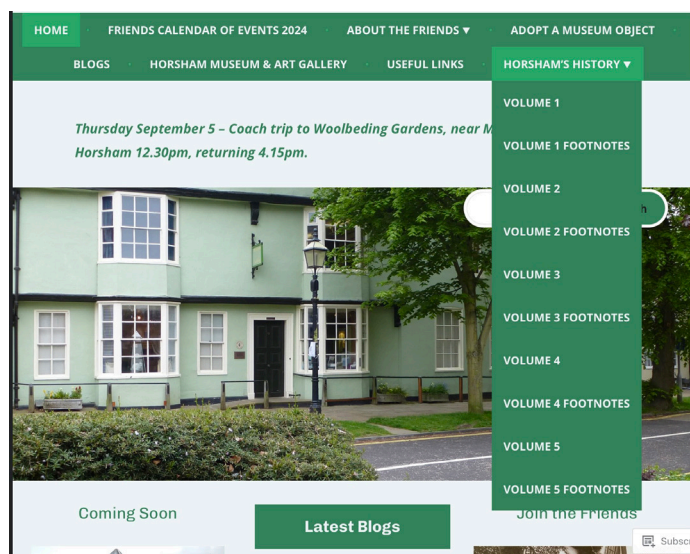
This was a large undertaking but one well worth doing.

Former Museum Curator Jeremy Knight had spent a long time researching and writing this comprehensive history. Also, several volunteers had provided valuable support with proof reading. The resulting books are packed full of facts and an essential background to the history of Horsham for future generations. Several copies were sold and the town library and Museum hold copies that can be consulted.

However, the cost of printing has spiralled beyond belief in recent years! So much so that it became obvious that there was no chance of getting the books reprinted so they could be sold at a reasonable price.

Jeremy came to the Friends committee and asked if the histories could be put on our website as an online resource. As a committee member and someone with the necessary knowledge, I took on the task and spent several enjoyable hours setting the pages up.

There are differences to the hard copy books, though. Our website package only allows a certain



level of data, so I had to leave out most of the illustrations.

Those that were specific to the text were included, though.

Also, the many footnotes have been included on separate pages. Some of these provide extra explanation, but most just cite where the information came from.

So now the definitive history of our town is available to anyone interested for generations to come.

*Steve Payne*

## ADOPT AN ARTEFACT

A quick reminder of two of the fascinating objects available for adoption, a old favourite and a brand new item. Find out how to take part at [friendsofhorshammuseum.co.uk/adopt-an-object](https://friendsofhorshammuseum.co.uk/adopt-an-object).

### **\*NEW** Wedding boot

This boot is from about 1880 and is typical of Victorian wedding boots. It is made of white silk and calfskin with 9 pearl button fasteners. The wedding styles at this time were still heavily influenced by the wedding of Queen Victoria in 1840, who famously set the trend for a white wedding dress which is still popular today.



### **Pentacycle**

Invented by Edward Bairstow, a Horsham architect, the Centre-Cycle was patented in 1881. An adapted design was submitted to the Post Office to be used for post and parcel delivery, but after completing trials the Post Office announced that the vehicle was not suited for their purpose.





## GARDEN UPDATE: CHALLENGES AND CHANGES IN THE GARDEN

The main challenge for gardeners most probably is dealing with the effects of climate change.

We are all becoming more aware of climate extremes: too wet, too dry, too hot, too cold, too windy and sometimes several occur at the same time. The recent thunderstorms brought excessive rain that battered our tall plants, and messed up many flowers. Plants grew taller than usual this year because of mild and wet conditions in the early months. Also, prior to the storms we had some rather warm to quite hot days which meant extra watering required for plants struggling in hanging baskets or troughs and pots, and I am grateful to members of the team for looking after them. During the hotter days the arid garden fared well, but most likely did not enjoy the deluge that followed. Gardeners have to accept whatever the climate throws at us, with the expectation that it will alright in the New Year. Next year WILL be better!

There are always other challenges, in particular, insects that may have expanded their previous known territories (this may be due to climate changes as well). Two examples are the Box Moth and the Asian Hornets. We have removed any Box plants after repeated attacks by these caterpillars

as plants were denuded of all leaves and weakened to a point of no recovery. The Asian Hornets are very much being monitored this year and should be quickly reported if seen.

This autumn and winter there are many plants in the garden that will need to be split up or relocated. The very lovely ginger lilies are on the list as they have spread amazingly well! Clumps of phlox, Japanese anemones, many tansies and other plants in the herb beds will all need thinning out. There may be some changes to the herb beds in the spring. Shrub tidying has already begun.

However, there will be some other changes in 2025. I shall be leaving the team after 21 years of volunteering in order to reset my own activities in accordance with my current capabilities! I have no doubt that the museum garden will continue to be beautiful and thrive well since the current team of six volunteers are all excellent gardeners and they all get on well together. Who knows, maybe one of them might step up as team leader? Someone will be needed to liaise with staff at the museum, list new plants or tool requirements and so on.

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*Heather Glenn*



# HISTORIC ENTRIES IN THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES

*Researched and transcribed by Julie Mitchell*

## WSCT Friday, March 2nd 1934 MR. GEORGE EVERSHERD'S DEATH Prominent Horsham Tradesman

The death of one of Horsham's best-known tradesman, Mr. George Evershed, senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Evershed and Cripps, grocers, of Middle-street and South-street, Horsham, occurred at his residence in Barttelot-road on Sunday. He had been in failing health for the past few years.

Mr. Evershed was the son of a well-known Butcher at Ockley, which district he left as a young man to come to Horsham. Here he entered the business of the late Mr. Henry Churchman, and he had been associated with this business for nearly 50 years. When Mr. Churchman died about 11 years ago, he and Mr. C. Cripps took over the business.

Mr. Evershed was a member of the Chamber of Trade, a keen member of the Horsham Conservative Association, and took an active interest in the doings of the Horsham Bowling Club. He leaves

a widow and four daughters, three of whom are married.

The interment took place yesterday afternoon, in Denne-road Cemetery, being preceded by a service at the Parish Church, which was conducted by the Rev. H. G. Dawson (Worthing).

### The Mourners

The principal mourners were: Mrs. Evershed (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Cooper (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Knight (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Sydes (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. Florrie Evershed, Mr. and Mrs. P. Mitchell (Brighton), Mr. and Mrs. C. Cripps and Mr. O. Cripps.

## WSCT Friday, 14th June 1946 MR. C. CRIPPS DIES AGED 78 Well-known Horsham Business Man

A service at Horsham Parish Church on Friday, preceded the interment at Denne-road cemetery of Mr. Charles Cripps of 30, Hurst-road, who died on June 6. Mr. Cripps, who was 78, rose from the position of a junior assistant to be managing director of Messrs. Evershed and Cripps, Ltd., grocers, of South-street.

As a boy, Mr. Cripps was in the employ of the late Mr. Henry Churchman, the then owner of the business. After the death of Mr. Churchman, the business was continued by Mr. Cripps and the late Mr. George Evershed, and was converted into a limited company.

A female impersonator of considerable ability, Mr. Cripps used to take a prominent part in the old Horsham Carnival and older residents of the town still recall when he played the part of Queen Elizabeth at a carnival to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII.

For a number of years he was a sidesman at the Parish Church. A keen gardener, he was a great lover of flowers. Mr. Cripps had been ill for about 18 months, and during the eight weeks prior to his

death had been nursed devotedly by Miss Scott, of Roffey.

He is survived by his widow, two sons, Mr. Owen Cripps and Mr. Ivan Cripps, and a daughter, Mrs. W. K. Campbell.

### The Funeral

Canon R. W. D. Lee, R.D., Vicar of Horsham, officiated at the funeral.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Cripps (widow), Mr. and Mrs. O. Cripps, Mr. and Mrs. I. Cripps (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Campbell (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Cripps and Mrs. E. Powell (sisters), Mrs. and Mrs. C. Bills (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs. J. Cripps (sister-in-law), Mr. T. Cripps (nephew), and Miss D. Pannett (niece).

Members of the staff of Messrs. Evershed and Cripps Ltd., present were: Miss P. Davison, Mrs. M. E. Newson, Miss Joan Barton, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Betchley, Mrs. Goring, Messrs. F. Greest, F. H. Martin, A. Marsh, C. Grace and C. W. Brown.

Funeral arrangements were by Mr. C. F. Jenden, Carfax.



## POSTER WEBSITE

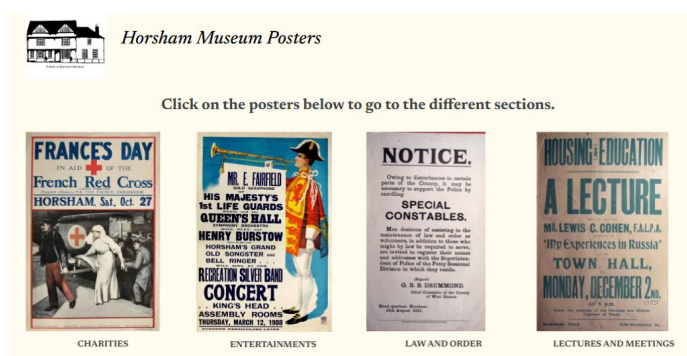
The Friends have a new website that went live in August - [HorshamMuseumPosters.wordpress.com](https://HorshamMuseumPosters.wordpress.com).

Hang on, some of you are saying, didn't we already have a website that featured the Albery Collection of posters? Yes we did. It was created ten years ago thanks to a Lottery grant and the hard work of many Friends and Museum volunteers. However, during those ten years much has changed.

The company that created the website has been charging us each year for hosting the site and for the domain name, and this cost was quite substantial! To put it in context, for the money paid each year to the company we could have run our own Friends website for seven to eight years!

Also, the information on the old posters website was very out of date. While the poster information is a valuable asset for the community it appears the website has seen very few visitors in recent years. So the decision was made to stop paying for the old website which went offline this year.

Instead, a new website was created via the company that we use for the Friends' site (Wordpress). The result is a fresh, new, updated website that has many of the features of the old



The new-look Posters website

one. But the biggest bonus is that it's FREE!

Some of the more detailed search facilities have gone and the occasional advert may pop up. However, the basic site remains the same and these changes are worth it to have a site that costs us nothing.

We hope that you like and enjoy using the new format. Please explore it as much as you can and let us know how you get on and whether there is any resultant feedback that you would like us to consider.

*Steve Payne*

## HORSHAMOSAURUS UPDATE

Nikki mentioned in the previous newsletter that we were recently donated a fossil bone from someone whose father collected it in the 80s from a brickworks near Horsham. The story goes that a dinosaur was discovered at the brickworks and he snuck a piece home in his lunchbox! The only dinosaur discovery near Horsham in the 80s was of the dinosaur now known as the Horshamosaurus, found at the Rudgewick brickworks in 1988, meaning this bone is probably a lost piece of the only known Horshamosaurus specimen.

Dr William Blows, the Palaeontologist responsible for naming the Horshamosaurus in 2015, visited the museum to see the bone in July and identified it as part of a limb, most likely the ankle- end of a leg bone. As the bone is not complete enough to have any distinctive features, it is impossible to confirm which species it belongs to, so the story of its discovery remains our only clue that it may be a missing piece of the Horshamosaurus.

Another surprise from Dr Blows' visit was his donation of a unique woodcarving depicting Horshamosaurus created by Dr Latinka Hristova, the curator of Palaeontology at the Bulgarian National Museum of Natural History. Dr Blows has been in touch with



the Bulgarian museum for some time and helped to inspire some of their own excavations into cretaceous beds there, leading to new and unique discoveries. It is heart-warming to find out that our little-known dinosaur is perhaps not so poorly known after all, and now we have a piece of its international impact here at the museum.

The new bone and wood carving will hopefully be put on display early next year, once the rest of the Horshamosaurus bones have returned from the exhibition in Chichester where they have been on loan all summer.

*George Graham*



## JEREMY KNIGHT'S RECENT TALK

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There were two topics for the price of one as former Horsham Museum & Art Gallery Curator Jeremy Knight presented the Friends' latest talk on July 17 at Wesley Hall, London Road Chapel.

Jeremy talked about how former Horsham resident Sarah Hurst's diaries from the mid 18th Century are very relatable to 21st Century Britain in a time of Covid.

Sarah, daughter of a tailor who lived in the Causeway, started her diaries aged just 22; it was unusual for a woman from a middle class background to commit her thoughts to paper!

Very few examples of this happening still exist, which is why Sarah's writing is historically very important.

She was in love with Henry Smith, a marine in the navy, with whom she had a clandestine relationship.

With the Seven Years War raging and Henry fighting abroad, Sarah confessed in her diary to feeling very anxious and suffering from headaches.

However, she wrote that she found great solace and felt better after reading her books.

Jeremy pointed out that during Covid it was noticeable that on Zoom phone calls and watching interviews on TV many people appeared with bookshelves in the background!

On occasion they may have been there 'for show' but actually many people turned to reading as a way of helping their mental health - bibliotherapy.

Sarah's diary entries were brought to life thanks to some excellent reading by the Friends' former and current Secretaries Audrey Coventry and Ann Rattray.

Jeremy then moved on to a particular passion of his, illuminated manuscripts.



Former Horsham Museum Curator Jeremy Knight and one of his illustrated manuscripts.

These had been used in more modern times (eg the 19th Century) to commemorate a person or act of 'goodness'.

However, it appears that the interest in them had waned dramatically after the First World War.

He showed the few examples that Horsham Museum has but backed this up with some from his own much larger collection (several dozen!).

To help put them into context, newspaper articles from the time relating to the manuscripts were read by Audrey and Ann.

The manuscripts were all beautifully designed with intricate calligraphy and illustrations, often in an equally impressive book or frame.

However, Jeremy reinforced the message that most were picked up very cheaply at auctions!

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Steve Payne

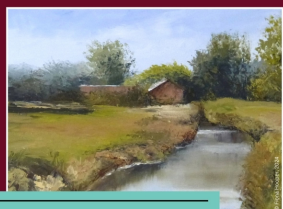
## NEW FHM MEMBERS

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We are pleased to welcome new members: Mrs Pamela Hunter and Mrs Mary Yeoman.



## FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



The Gallery at  
Horsham Museum

### Exhibition | Autumn collection

Saturday 14 September - Saturday 7 December | The Gallery

### Events | Halloween Trail

Tuesday 22 October - Tuesday 19 November

### Events | Halloween Family Crafts

Tuesday 29 October - Friday 1 November, 10.30am - 3pm

### Events | Museum decorated for Christmas

Tuesday 19 November

### Friends events | Christmas Tea Party hosted by harpist Margaret Watson

Wednesday 4th December | 4pm | The Lounge, London Road Chapel

Members & Guests: £5 cash only

See page 3 for details

### Exhibition | Revolutions Galleries

Open Friday 20 December

### Events | Christmas Museum Late

Friday 20 December



Halloween Family  
Craft Activities

CRAFTS  
£1



Please note that the museum will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2024 -  
Wednesday 1 January 2025 (inclusive)

### Events | Cretaceous Horsham: Discovering Dinosaurs

Saturday 18 January

### Friends events | David Allen: The Life and Times of Agatha Christie

Wednesday 26th February 2025 | 2pm | The Lounge, London Road Chapel

Members & Guests: £7.50 cash only

See page 3 for details



## FHM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Paul French | Secretary: Ann Rattray | Treasurer: Brian Frogley

Pam French, Audrey Coventry, Steve Payne, Sean Hannan, Patricia Barrett, Maureen Radbourne

Newsletter Editor: Gail Chapman

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Contact address: Horsham Museum, 9 Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1HE

You can support Horsham Museum & Art Gallery by making cash or card donations, Adopting an Object, joining the Horsham District Council lottery, registering with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to do your shopping or by leaving a gift in your will

[www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org)

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